

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 49

Introduced by Assembly Member Runner

February 20, 2003

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 49—Relative to the California Golden Poppy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 49, as introduced, Runner. California Golden Poppy.

This measure would commemorate March 2, 2003, as the 100th anniversary of the California Golden Poppy as the official state flower of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Golden Poppy became California's official
2 flower on March 2, 1903; and

3 WHEREAS, The Golden Poppy, Matilija Poppy, and Mariposa
4 Lily were all originally nominated as California's state flower. The
5 California Golden Poppy won by a landslide; and

6 WHEREAS, The official name of the California Golden Poppy
7 is *Eschscholzia californica*; and

8 WHEREAS, Since the Golden Poppy is the Golden State's
9 official flower, it is protected by state law which prohibits persons
10 from picking or destroying it; and

11 WHEREAS, The California poppy was most likely first seen in
12 1542 by European members of the Cabrillo expedition; and

13 WHEREAS, Adelbert von Chamisso first described the
14 California poppy in 1820; and

1 WHEREAS, Poppies are generally considered a perennial
2 flower, although they are grown as an annual in colder zones; and

3 WHEREAS, Early sailors are said to have nicknamed
4 California, La Tierra del Fuego, or “Land of Fire,” for the rolling
5 foothills carpeted with poppies; and

6 WHEREAS, California poppy blossoms are two to three inch
7 cups of gold, bronze, scarlet, terra cotta, rose, or white; and

8 WHEREAS, Poppy blossoms close at night and open again in
9 the morning; and

10 WHEREAS, The Golden Poppy is best planted by seed in
11 well-drained, sandy soil that has been well spaded; and

12 WHEREAS, California poppies should be planted by direct
13 seed when possible; and

14 WHEREAS, Poppies transplant best when very young, and
15 grow best in cool, sunny conditions; and

16 WHEREAS, The Antelope Valley California Poppy State
17 Reserve is located 15 miles west of the City of Lancaster, and its
18 1,745 acres serve to protect and perpetuate outstanding displays of
19 the Golden Poppy with the reserve’s several miles of winding trails
20 that allow expansive views of the poppy and other brilliant
21 wildflowers; and

22 WHEREAS, In the City of Lancaster, the annual California
23 Poppy Festival attracts about 60,000 visitors each year and is held
24 every April in Lancaster City Park as a two-day event that includes
25 a variety of arts and crafts, environmental displays, a children’s
26 carnival, and performances by well-known jazz artists; and

27 WHEREAS, Many comment on the irony of the Golden Poppy
28 as California’s state flower, given the famous 1849 Gold Rush,
29 which labeled our state the “land of opportunity”; now, therefore,
30 be it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the California State Legislature hereby
33 commemorates March 2, 2003, as the 100th anniversary of the
34 California Golden Poppy as the official state flower of California;
35 and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
37 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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